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REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-23, and 25-27 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 6, 9, and 20 are amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 1, 6, 11, 14, and 16-20 are independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicants also note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Entry of this §1.116 Amendment is proper. Since the Amendments above narrow the issues for appeal and since such features and their distinctions over the prior art of record were discussed earlier, such amendments do not raise a new issue requiring a further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. As such, entry of this Amendment is believed proper and Applicant earnestly solicits entry. No new matter has been added.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 4-5, 11-23, and 25-27 are allowed. However, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 7-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable.

Claims 6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Michael reference.

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This rejection is respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as defined by, for example, independent claim 6, is directed to a composite holding device that includes a holder body for holding a first medium to serve a prescribed purpose and a cap for detachably covering the holder body. The cap includes a casing for accommodating a plurality of holders, a supporting section, a feed mechanism, and a manipulating mechanism. Each holder holds a second medium to serve a purpose either different from or similar to that of the first medium. The supporting section supports the holders to be movable in an axial direction in the casing. The feed mechanism is provided in the casing and selectively advances one of the plurality of holders. The manipulating mechanism operates the feed mechanism. The manipulating mechanism includes a nose, and a sleeve that is enabled to rotate in relation to the nose so that a relative rotation between the nose and the sleeve causes a tip of one of the plurality of holders to selectively project out of a fore end opening at a tip of the casing and make usable the tip of one of the plurality of holders.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

The Examiner alleges that the Michael reference teaches the claimed invention. Applicants submit, however, that there are elements of the claimed invention which are neither taught nor suggested by the Michael reference.

The Michael reference does not teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention including a manipulating mechanism that includes a nose, and a sleeve that is enabled to

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rotate in relation to the nose so that a relative rotation between the nose and the sleeve causes a tip of one of the plurality of holders to selectively project out of a fore end opening at a tip of the casing and make usable the tip of one of the plurality of holders.

Rather, and in stark contrast, the Michael reference discloses pens X-1 and X-2 that each include a projecting knob 20' which are engaged to selectively project these pens forwardly for use. (Col. 3, line 22 - col. 4, line 3).

Clearly, the Michael reference does not teach or suggest a manipulating mechanism that includes a nose, and a sleeve that is enabled to rotate in relation to the nose so that a relative rotation between the nose and the sleeve causes a tip of one of the plurality of holders to selectively project out of a fore end opening at a tip of the casing and make usable the tip of one of the plurality of holders as recited by independent claim 6.

Therefore, the Michael reference does not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection of claims 6 and 10.

III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

The Office Action objects to claims 6, 9, and 20. This Amendment amends claims 6, 9, and 20 in accordance with Examiner Prunner's very helpful suggestions. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 4-23, and 25-27, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

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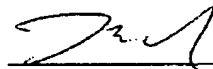
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Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

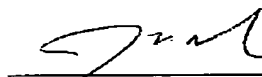
Date: 7/5/05


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.116 by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Kathleen J. Prunner, Group Art Unit 3751 at fax number (703) 872-9306 this 5th day of July, 2005.


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